

Amendment

Application Filed: January 5, 2006

Serial No: 10/541,274

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 through 16 stand rejected. Claims 12 through 16 have been cancelled. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 through 11 remain in the application. Claim 1 is in independent form.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patents 6,019,475 (the '475 reference) in view of United States Patent 6,980,092 (the '092 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The '475 reference discloses a modular rear view mirror assembly including an electronic control module. The modular exterior rear view mirror assembly 10 includes a case 12 that houses a reflective elements assembly 13. The case 12 also houses an electronic control module 22 which is fixedly secured to the case 12. The '475 reference does not disclose a separate sensor circuit board separate from an electronic circuit board 22. Further, the '475 reference does not disclose that the sensor circuit board is separated from the backing plate so that the sensor and the sensor circuit board maintain a constant orientation with the respect to the frame and they are both independent of the orientation of the mirror.

The '092 reference discloses a rear view mirror assembly for position internal of the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle. It discloses a mirror case 31 housing a mirror 40 which is fixedly secured to a first printed circuit board 110 and a second printed circuit board 112, both of which have substrates that enable the circuit boards, separately or in combination, to act as a backing plate.

Claim 1, as amended to clarify the invention, claims an interior rear view mirror for vehicles. The mirror includes a mirror cover and a mirror operatively secured within the mirror cover. The mirror also includes a backing plate and a drive operatively connected to the backing plate. The mirror also includes an electronic circuit board secured to the mirror cover for

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controlling the drive. A sensor is arranged in the frame of the mirror cover and generates signals relating to ambient conditions arriving at the interior of the rear view mirror from the outside. The interior rear view mirror also includes a sensor circuit board fixedly secured to the sensor and spatially separated from the backing plate. This allows the sensor and the sensor circuit board to maintain a constant orientation with respect to the frame and independent of the orientation of the mirror and the backing plate.

Although the '475 and '092 references disclose automotive mirror assemblies, the combination does not disclose every element claimed in claim 1 of the above-captioned patent application. More specifically, neither of the references cited by the Examiner disclose a sensor circuit board which is fixedly secured to a sensor and is independent of the backing plate of the mirror assembly. The separation of the sensor circuit board and the electronic circuit board, which controls the drive and other electronic devices housed within the mirror assembly (not a part of the invention), is important because it allows the sensor to be remote from the electronic circuit board. In the instances where the sensor is wirelessly communicating with the electronic circuit board, the sensor requires the sensor circuit board to be located proximal thereto. The '475 reference does not disclose a sensor circuit board and the '092 reference discloses two circuit boards which are sandwiched together resulting in an effective single circuit board and not two circuit boards. The combination of the two references includes a circuit board secured to the housing and a sensor circuit board secured to the backing plate.

In contradistinction, claim 1 as amended, specifically claims a sensor circuit board which is spatially separated from the backing plate and from the electronic circuit board. The combination is not shown in any reference. Nor is this combination of elements shown in any combination of references.

Claims 12 through 16 stand rejected under the same combination of references. These claims have been cancelled rendering the rejection thereto moot.

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It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

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